

CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2012**

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FORMER ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PENALIZED FOR LEAVING BEFORE THE END OF HER WORKDAY TO WORK A SECOND JOB

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (“Board”) reached a settlement with a former Assistant Principal who, on thirty-two occasions, left before the end of her regular workday at the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) to work a second job. In a public disposition of the Board’s charges, the former Assistant Principal acknowledged that, by working for her outside employer during her DOE workday, she violated the City’s conflicts of interest law, which prohibits City employees from pursuing personal and private activities during times when they are required to perform services for the City. For this violation, the Board imposed a \$2,500 fine, which it forgave based on her showing of financial hardship. A copy of the disposition is attached [here](#).

Bre Injeski, Deputy Director of Enforcement, handled this case for the Board. The Board gratefully acknowledges the work of its confidential investigative arm, the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) Richard J. Condon, and SCI Investigator James McCabe.

The Board does not comment on its dispositions, except as set forth above. Additional public information about the Board’s enforcement activities—including summaries of all enforcement dispositions and fines imposed—is available on the Board’s website (<http://nyc.gov/ethics>). All of the Board’s dispositions are available on the website for the Center for New York City Law at New York Law School (www.CityAdmin.org).

The Conflicts of Interest Board is the City’s ethics board and is charged with interpreting and enforcing the City’s the conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbyist gift laws. Anyone with questions about the law is urged to contact the Board through its website or by calling (212) 442-1400.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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	:	
<i>In the Matter of</i>	:	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
	:	
	:	COIB Case No. 2009-493
MAIZELIN KNOWLIN	:	
	:	
	:	
<i>Respondent.</i>	:	
	:	
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WHEREAS, the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (the “Board”) commenced an enforcement action pursuant to Section 2603(h)(1) of Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter (“City Charter”) against Respondent Maizelin Knowlin (“Respondent”); and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to resolve this matter on the following terms;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the parties as follows:

1. In full satisfaction of the above-captioned matter, Respondent admits to the following:
 - a. I was employed by the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) from November 1, 1999, to March 22, 2011. As such, I was at all relevant times herein mentioned a “public servant” within the meaning of Chapter 68 of the City Charter (“Chapter 68”).
 - b. At all times hereafter mentioned, I was an Assistant Principal at P.S. 276 in Brooklyn. During the school year, I was required to perform my Assistant Principal duties until 3:20 p.m., Monday to Friday.
 - c. During the 2006-2007 school year, I did per session work at the DOE After School Program Homeless Education Grant and was also employed by the Flatbush YMCA as the Program Site Coordinator of YMCA’s after-school program at P.S. 276. On 18 occasions during the school year, I started work at the YMCA after-school program at 3:00 p.m. during my DOE workday. On 14 occasions, I worked for the YMCA until 6:00 p.m. but reported to DOE that I had started my per session work at 4:00 p.m. and, thus, received per session pay from DOE even though I was working at the YMCA.

- d. I acknowledge that, by working for my outside employer during my DOE workday, I violated the City's conflicts of interest law, specifically City Charter § 2604(b)(2), pursuant to Board Rules § 1-13(a), which state respectively:

No public servant shall engage in any business, transaction or private employment, or have any financial or other private interest, direct or indirect, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of his or her official duties. [City Charter § 2604(b)(2)]

Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this section, it shall be a violation of City Charter § 2604(b)(2) for any public servant to pursue personal and private activities during times when the public servant is required to perform services for the City. [Board Rules § 1-13(a)]

- e. Effective March 22, 2011, DOE discontinued my employment for reasons related to the foregoing conduct and, thereafter, I was effectively terminated from the DOE system. I have provided the Board documentary evidence of my current financial situation, showing I have been unemployed since DOE discontinued my employment on March 22, 2011, have significant outstanding debts, and would not be able to make any monthly payment to the Board as a penalty for the violations cited above and still be able to pay for other basic living expenses.

2. As a penalty for the violations of Chapter 68 cited in paragraph 1(e), the Board imposes a fine in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) on Respondent. The Board accepts Respondent's claim of financial hardship, supported by documentation provided by Respondent verifying her continued unemployment, income, assets, expenses, and liabilities and agrees to forgive the total amount of the fine.

3. In recognition of the foregoing, Respondent agrees to the following:

- a. I agree to the imposition, and forgiveness, of a \$2,500 fine by the Board.
- b. I agree that this disposition is a public and final resolution of the Board's charges against me.
- c. I knowingly waive on my behalf and on behalf of my successors and assigns any rights to commence any judicial or administrative proceeding or appeal before any court of competent jurisdiction, administrative tribunal, political subdivision, or office of the City or the State of New York or the United States, and to contest the lawfulness, authority, jurisdiction, or power of the Board in imposing the penalty which is embodied in this disposition, and I waive any right to make any legal or

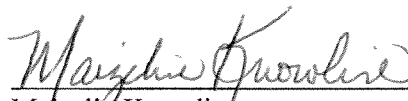
equitable claims or to initiate legal proceedings of any kind against the Board, or any members or employees thereof, relating to or arising out of this disposition or the matters recited therein.

- d. I confirm that I have entered into this disposition freely, knowingly, and intentionally, without coercion or duress, and after having had the opportunity to be represented by an attorney of my choice; that I accept all terms and conditions contained herein without reliance on any other promises or offers previously made or tendered by any past or present representative of the Board; and that I fully understand all the terms of this disposition.
- e. I agree that any material misstatement of the facts of this matter, including of the disposition, by me or by my attorney or agent shall, at the discretion of the Board, be deemed a waiver of confidentiality of this matter.


4. The Board accepts this disposition and the terms contained herein as a final disposition of the above-captioned matter only, and affirmatively states that other than as recited herein, no further action will be taken by the Board against Respondent based upon the facts and circumstances set forth herein, except that the Board shall be entitled to take any and all actions necessary to enforce the terms of this disposition.

5. This disposition shall not be effective until all parties have affixed their signatures below.

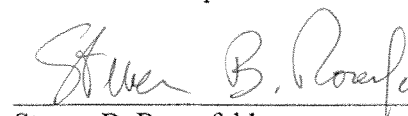
Dated: 9/7, 2012


Maizel Knowlin
Respondent

Dated: 9/12, 2012


David Grandwetter
Council of School Supervisors and
Administrators
Counsel for Respondent

Dated: 10/17, 2012


Steven B. Rosenfeld
Chair
NYC Conflicts of Interest Board